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PCT) SE96/01698

NEW CLAIMS

Subt B1
5 ~~1. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres, characterized by dissolving a polysaccharide in a solvent, and spraying the solution into a bath which contains a water-miscible organic solvent and a cross-linker.~~

2. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with Claim 1, characterized by stretching, rolling-up, drying and cutting the polysaccharide fibres after the bath.

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Subt B2
10 ~~3. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, characterized in that the organic solvent is an alcohol or a ketone.~~

Subt B3
15 ~~4. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 3, characterized in that the organic solvent is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol or acetone.~~

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A
Subt B4
20 ~~5. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with ^{Claim 1}any one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the cross-linker is a polyelectrolyte.~~

Subt B5
~~6. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 5, characterized in that the cross-linker is polyvinylamine or Polybrene® (hexadimethrinbromide).~~

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Subt B6
25 ~~7. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to ^{Claim 1}any one of Claims 1-4, characterized in that the cross-linker is a salt where the cation in the salt is a metal ion.~~

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Subt
B7

8. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 7, characterized in that the cation in the salt is divalent, trivalent or quadrivalent.

9. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to Claim 8, characterized in that the cation in the salt is calcium, magnesium, iron, aluminium or zirconium.

Subt
B8

10. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to ^{Claim 7} any one of Claims 7-9, characterized in that the anion in the metal salt is chloride.

11. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres according to ^{Claim 1} any one of the preceding Claims, characterized in that the polysaccharide is comprised of carboxymethyl cellulose, starch, cellulose xanthane, gelan, chitin, chitosan, guar gum or alginate.

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12. A method of producing polysaccharide fibres in accordance with ^{Claim 1} any one of the preceding Claims, characterized by cross-linking the fibre covalently in a following stage.

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13. A polysaccharide fibre, characterized by having been produced in accordance with ^{Claim 1} any one of the preceding Claims.

Subt
B9

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14. A polysaccharide fibre according to claim 13, characterized in that the fibre has been solvent-spun and has a degree of substitution greater than 0.35, is cross-linked, and insoluble, but swellable, in water.

